

14 great ways to boost a child's creative spirit!



1. Provide child-safe and age-appropriate arts materials (dress up clothes, crayons, paper, clay, scissors, glue, music and more).
2. Dance and sing together – follow your child's movement and copy his tune or sounds.
3. Display her artwork or writing at a level she can see.
4. Act out stories with your child.
5. Listen to different kinds of music together.
6. Focus on his initiated expressions and activities rather than pre-packaged activities.
7. Get messy – and clean up together.
8. Read stories aloud and use “character voices.” Encourage her to join in.
9. Get down to your child's level to look and see from his point of view.
10. Sing and make up songs together.
11. Recognize and celebrate your child's discoveries.
12. Provide opportunities for groups of children to create together.
13. Organize and chaperone field trips to museums, concerts or plays.
14. Write a letter to the editor of your newspaper or an article for a newsletter about how the arts are important to you and your children.

Join the Maine Arts Commission and the Department of Human Services, Office of Child Care and Head Start in promoting the early stARTS program. Help make the earliest years of life full of color, music and dance so that the later years are productive and joyful.

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